

There should be some natural features not found elsewhere that are worthy of being preserved for people to see and appreciate. The area must lie within a reasonable distance of centres of population and be adaptable for road links with existing public highways. The land must remain in a fairly wild state and be free of agricultural, forestry and mineral developments and permanent settlements. In Canada, even with its immense area, there are few regions left with national park potential, and recreation space of any kind is limited in the vicinity of concentrations of population.

Once a new park area has been established, it undergoes a period of intensive study before development begins. It is necessary to control the design of buildings and other development to ensure that structures complement the natural landscape and do not intrude upon it.

Concessionaires and resort owners are encouraged to respect the national park atmosphere. The position of buildings is also carefully controlled to harmonize as far as possible with the landscape.

What do Canadians - visitors from the United States, who form a large part of the park clientele - want to do when they visit a national park? Certainly, they do not seek the same artificial and contrived amusements and activities they experience the rest of the year in their cities and homes. Sightseeing, resting and relaxing, observing and studying nature - these are the favourite activities of the national park visitors, and opportunities for these activities that renew and relax are precisely those the parks were intended to provide.

Camping, by tent or trailer, is increasingly popular and is an appropriate way of enjoying the benefits of a national park. All national park campgrounds are busy in July and August and, though the National Parks Service is establishing new campgrounds and enlarging existing ones as quickly as possible, facilities invariably fall behind demand.

Park naturalists, with their interpretive programmes, awaken the visitor to the wonders of nature. He can walk by himself along short and interesting nature trails where plants, trees and other natural wonders are identified and explained or he can join others in a conducted hike led by a naturalist who is their patient guide to the world of nature. In the evenings, there are showings of colour slides and movies related to the national park and informal talks about the animals, the forests, the plants, the geology and other natural aspects of the park.

#### Forest and Wildlife Protection

But in a national park there are obligations more fundamental than providing for the enjoyment and convenience of visitors. The natural features must be protected from damage or destruction by natural or human causes. Today there exists an élite corps of protectors, known, because of their kinship with the wardens who protected medieval cities, as the Park Warden Service.

The park wardens keep a watchful eye on the health and the safety of the forests and the wildlife and, when action is required to control a